

STRANGE NEWS

FROM

M I L E - E N D:

Or a full and true Account, of a

VVonderful Fire,

T H A T

happened there by the heat of the *Sun*, which Consumed the Herbage of one whole Field, set Fire of the Hedges, Leaves and outward Branches of several Trees growing in the Hedgeway; and halfe the next Field adjoyning.

I F we search backwards into the Records of past-times; certainly we shall be scarce informed of any year; that hath afforded us so great and VVonderful varieties as the late *Winter*, and this present *Summer* hath done, for as in the First, never was there so hard a season, as all men can well Testifye, so hath the great Heat of these late Months been parallel therunto: Insomuch that in most Countreyes in *England*, so great a drought hath been, that the Cattle in many Places, were forced to be drove several Miles to water. But that, which I think is most remarkable, is the Relation which this Paper will give you a true Account of.

At *Mile-end* in the Parish of *Stepney* alias *Stebon-heath*, in the County of *Middelfex*, on the backside of the Sign of the 3 *Colts* in a certain Field near thereunto on *Thursday*, the 10th. day of *July*, 1684. About 11 or 12 in the Forenoon of the same day; the Sun than shining very Cleare, a certain Fire arose, as if the same had been raised by a Train of Gunpowder, and in the space of almost 3 Minutes, extended it selfe for at least Thirty or Forty Yards in Breadth: and Flameing at least a Yard high went forward through the whole Field, till it came to the Hedge that parted

parted the same from that which was next it and taking hold of the Exter-
our Branches, Bowes and Leaves of the Trees that grew in the Hedge-
Row, till they were consumed, left the bodys thereof as if the same
had been Charcoaled; and passing beyond the said Hedge, set Fire on
the Herbage of the other Field, till it had Consumed above halfe
thereof: In that by Computation of such (amongst many) that were
the admiring Spectators thereof: at least 11 or 12 Acres in both Fields
felt the rage and efficacy thereof: till the whole surface of the ground
for two Inches deep was left in a kind of black Ashes: so that with the least
spurne or tread of the Foot, whole Clouds thereof would arise; and so
great was the heat it left, that you could scarce endure your Foot there-
upon, and at Six of the Clock in the Evening the Fire so continued that
several people out of curiosity, to say they had done the same, light there
Pipes of Tabacco thereby: and the Horse and Cow-dung therein were
burnt to a perfect Cole: the whole Field, appeareing no otherwise, then
as if a constant Fire for several days had been made thereon: to the General
amazement of all people, who in crouds resorted thereunto; insomuch
that the news immediately spread it selfe through the whole Town; and
thousands of persons went to proove it's truth, and found the same to be,
as the present Account thereof most impartially imports. Although the
Flame continued not above an hour or little more.

This Relation may seeme somewhat the more strange to the incredi-
tious because of the preceeding days Rain which one would have thought
might have so cooled the Earth, that so strange and an unusual a burn-
ing could neve have had any power thereupon.

But as to the truth hereof, so many persons have been the Eye-VVit-
nesses of the same; that I dare apeal to the whole Neighbourhood, who
can, and are ready to give, any satisfaction to those that shall inquire there-
of; or will give themselves the trouble to Journey thereunto; by which I
am well assured they will subscribe to the verity hereof.

And as we ought to look upon the season as a Judgement of God Almighty,
for the Crimes we all of us have been too much Guilty of; So likewise,
should we fall down upon our Knees, and pray to him, that he would
showe his mercy upon us, and give us his Rain in due season; that the
Fruits of the Earth may be produced to the benefit of mankind: and
that as we live under a good and Gracious Governour, and an equal and
just Government, so we may reap the benefit thereof, and of Gods bounty,
every man sitting under his Vine enjoying, the Fruits of Peace and plenty.

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